

Business Council

OF NEW ORLEANS AND THE RIVER REGION

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97-231

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19 November 1997

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The Honorable William Kennard, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Kennard:

The Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region consists of the major businesses of New Orleans and the river region. At our recent meeting the membership passed the attached Resolution which I am pleased to forward to you today.

With best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Erik F. Johnsen
Chairman

EFJ/mc
Enclosure

bcc w/enclosure:
Mr. Herschel Abbott

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A resolution to urge the Federal Communications Commission to concur with the Louisiana Public Service Commission that BellSouth has opened its local network to competition and that BellSouth's entry into the long-distance market is in the public interest; to find that facilities-based competition for local residence and business telephone service exists in Louisiana; and to approve BellSouth's application to provide competitive long-distance service in this state.

WHEREAS, BellSouth is a major corporate citizen of the City of New Orleans and the River Region, one of the largest single taxpayers in this area, and a major employer with thousands of active and retired employees and their families calling New Orleans and the River Region home, and;

WHEREAS, BellSouth is a supplier of essential services to the City of New Orleans and all its citizens, and will become an even more important service provider if it is allowed to provide long-distance service, and;

WHEREAS, BellSouth has invested more than \$4 billion in Louisiana, creating a modern, state-of-the-art telecommunications infrastructure for the use of the people of this state, and;

WHEREAS, BellSouth's entry into the long-distance business is the best way to encourage the large long-distance carriers and other telecommunications companies to build their own networks and to invest in Louisiana in order to provide local telephone service to both business and residence customers in this state, and;

WHEREAS, new investment will create a \$922-million boost to the state's economy and more than 7,600 additional jobs by the year 2006, a significant portion of which will be in the New Orleans metropolitan area, and;

WHEREAS, businesses will have additional products and services to choose from, because more competition will encourage the development of innovative products and services as companies compete to attract customers, and;

WHEREAS, additional investment in Louisiana will attract more businesses and thus expand the tax base by hundreds of millions of dollars and provide much needed revenue for parishes and municipalities, and;

WHEREAS, we believe BellSouth's entry into long-distance is in the best interest of the New Orleans metropolitan area, the businesses that operate in this area and the citizens at large, and;

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Public Service Commission endorsed BellSouth's request, finding that the company has met all local and federal competitive requirements and that BellSouth's entry into the long-distance service market is in the public interest, and;

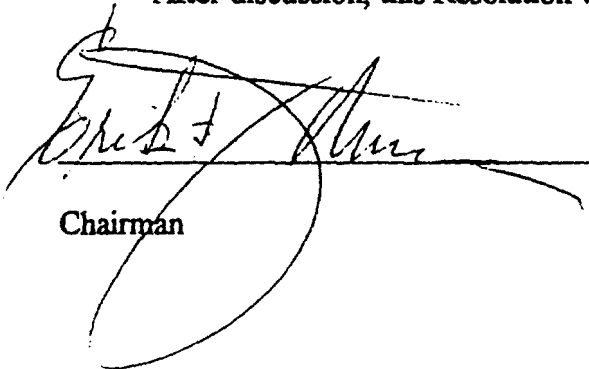
WHEREAS, the Telecommunications Act allows local exchange carriers that have facilities-based competition for local residence and business service in their region to file under Track A;

WHEREAS, PCS PrimeCo and Sprint Spectrum are currently providing a facilities-based alternative to BellSouth for local calls and are actively marketing services to both residence and business customers.

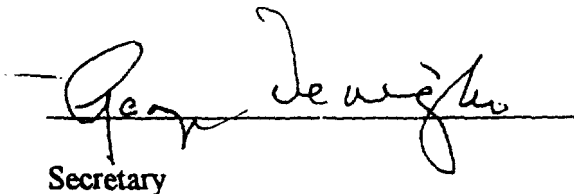
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BUSINESS COUNCIL OF NEW ORLEANS AND THE RIVER REGION:

The Business Council hereby urges and requests the Federal Communications Commission to concur with the Louisiana Public Service Commission that BellSouth has opened its local network to competition and that BellSouth's entry into the long-distance market is in the public interest; to find that facilities-based competition for local residence and business telephone service exists in Louisiana; and to approve BellSouth's application to provide competitive long-distance service in this state.

After discussion, this Resolution was unanimously adopted.



Chairman



Secretary